ters received between 1.7.91 and 31.10.91 was 2245.

(b) and (c). Action on most of the letters is required to be taken by different ministries and departments. These letters have been sent to the concerned ministries and departments with the advice to have them examined expeditiously and send an appropriate reply to the Members of Parliament concerned.

There are certain other letters in respect of which action is required to be taken by the Prime Minister's Office. These are processed with due diligence and expedition.

There are some others on which no specific action is required. However, in all cases, acknowledgements are sent from the Prime Minister to the Members ofParliament concerned.

Appointment of Executives in Public Sector Units

3227. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW:Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the executives for the pubiic sector units have been selected on the basis of smerit;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Selection to the Board-level posts in the Central Public Sector undertakings are made on the0 basis of the specific job requirements of each Board-level post from among th candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria with regard to age, experience and posts held by them in their respective organisations. At the time of interview, the Public Enterprises Selection Board also takes into account the experience, service records and the Annual Confidential Reports of the persons and their performance in the interview.

(c) Does not arise.

Down-ward trend in the prices of essential commodities

3228. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a down-ward trend in the prices of some essential commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a)and (b). Yes Sir. The essential commodities which have recorded a *down-ward trend in the wholesale price indices* during the last four weeks upto 16.11.1991 are given below:

Arhar	-	1.1
Gram	-	0.4
Barley	-	1.2
Mutton	-	1.3
Black Pepper	-	5.1
Turmeric	-	4.7
Tea	-	4.2

Coffee	-	2.7
Sugar	-	0.2
Khandsari	-	3.5
Gur	-	8.3
Gingelly Oil	-	3.3
Groundnut oil	-	0.5
Rice Bran oil	-	14.0
Cement	-	2.8
GLS Lamps	-	3.1
Salt	-	2.0
Onions	-	8.3

Cancellation of Licences of FPS and Kerosene Depots

3229. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the licences of Fair Price Shops and Kerosene depots cancelled by the Department of Food and Supplies, Delhi Administration during the Gulf War have been reinstated after completing the departmental enquiry;

(b) if so, whether the charges levelled in these cases have been established;

(c) if not, whether the cases pending in the courts of law in respect of those shops and depots have also been withdrawn;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government propose to withdraw those cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and(b). Delhi Administration has reported that only in one case, where the authorisation was cancelled the penalty was reduced to imposition of forfeiture of security deposit, after hearing of the case by the Licensing Authority in remand proceedings. The charges have been established.

(c) to (e). The criminal and department proceedings started against licences are mutually exclusive and independent of each other. There is no proposal by Delhi Administration to withdraw the prosecutions launched in court against any of the offenders.

[*Translation*]

Amount From Slum Dwellers by DDA

3230 SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer the reply given on August 5, 1991 to Unstarred Question No. 1658 regarding amount for slum dwellers by Delhi Development Authority and state:

(a) whether the information regarding the funds approved by Delhi Development Authority for the people living in slum colonies has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.